

over the next 10 years, is it worth borrowing money from the Chinese and sending the bill to our children and grandchildren?

Mr. Chairman, I say "no." I say "no" so that I can say "yes" to my 5-year-old son's future, my 7-year-old daughter's future, and the future of all the children and great grandchildren of our country.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. I rise in opposition to the amendment, Mr. Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. I understand the hope of my colleague from Texas to rein in excessive government spending, but he is really misguided on this one.

This is a project that would provide real benefit to the residents of the Borough of South River, and as a demonstration project it would serve as an example for the rest of New Jersey and the Northeast and indeed the whole Nation of how to use technology to conserve energy, to use it more wisely. In fact, every dollar spent, to paraphrase my friend here, on smart metering, is indeed a dollar well spent.

My constituents in New Jersey pay some of the highest utility rates in the Nation. In the Borough of South River, they are seeking assistance to help decrease the electric bills of the borough residents, and they're seeking to demonstrate that this works. Funding for the automated remote electric project will provide relief to the constituents in this municipal energy system, and it will serve as a wonderful example.

South River owns and operates its own utilities. It's moving toward implementing a borough-wide smart grid. This metering that the borough intends to purchase is the first step toward this eventual goal. They would provide real-time consumption information. It would allow the users to make wise decisions based on the real cost of service in real time.

It's just exactly what we have been discussing here in the House of Representatives in recent weeks. It's well established in the scientific community that climate change of recent decades can be attributed to the way we produce and use energy and that climate change is altering our planet in ways that are expensive and deadly.

I spoke to the mayor of South River yesterday, who assured me that he is ready to go ahead with the project. It's one of their top priorities. They have been working on it for years, one in which they have already made considerable investment in preparing an efficient municipal utility.

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This will serve, as I say, as an example.

I might add that the gentleman's home State of Texas ranks 32nd in the Nation in tax dollars returned from Washington. My home State of New Jersey ranks considerably lower than that. As a so-called donor State, I don't

apologize to my constituents for working to return their tax dollars. I really only regret that all municipal utilities in the country are not funded to convert to smart metering. This is certainly a good investment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, I saw that the gentleman from New Jersey was lamenting the high energy rates of his constituents. And although I don't have the House RECORD in front of me, I'm under the impression he recently voted for the national energy tax, which would cost his constituents anywhere from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a year.

Second of all, I believe in the value of demonstration projects as well. My constituents would like a demonstration project of fiscal sanity in the United States Congress. They have yet to see one. Here is a small demonstration project of fiscal sanity on behalf of our children and grandchildren by adopting this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. May I ask the Chair the remaining time?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Let me try to figure out why it is that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is proposing to do this. I can assure, I think it is unlikely that he knows as much about this project as I do, but I must say energy has been my professional field for most of my life.

This is, I would argue, a good investment. To refer to the comments of my colleague from Massachusetts a while ago, this approach of trying to deal with the deficit and excess spending one project at a time is sort of a waste. If the gentleman is really concerned about this, I presume that we will find his vote in the "aye" column next week when we consider pay-as-you-go legislation.

If he's concerned about earmarks, as a concept, then I would say, yes, the OMB, the Office of Management and Budget, speaking on behalf of the White House, should have included this project in their request to Congress and many more like it. But they didn't.

And so, is the gentleman saying that the House of Representatives should just be an up-or-down vote on what the President sends to us? The President will decide what the budget should be. We take it or leave it.

Well, no, that's not the way it should work. This is something that I offer. It provides no partisan political advantage. In fact, the mayor of this town is from the other party. No one from the borough, to my knowledge, has made any campaign contribution to any Member of Congress, any member of the borough government. No lobbyist is involved in this.

This is just good policy. It should have been in the budget sent over by the President, but it wasn't. Lots of things should be in the budget sent over by the President, but they're not. That's why we scrub the budget and de-

cide what should be added and what should be subtracted. Call it earmarking if you want, but I don't. I would hope that the gentleman would not think that we should abdicate our responsibilities here as Members.

I yield back my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NYE) having assumed the chair, Mr. CUELLAR, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3183) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

JUMP-STARTING OUR ECONOMY

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, the number of empty storefronts across Kansas is growing, and the folks who call our towns home continue to ask, Where are the jobs?

They hear about bailouts and the \$1 trillion so-called economic stimulus, but Kansans are still struggling.

The Nation's deficit has topped \$1 trillion for the first time, and some say it could grow to \$2 trillion by this fall. We should be ashamed. But rather than putting the brakes on this out of control spending spree, some think Washington needs to spend more.

Mr. Speaker, when does it stop?

Instead of taxing small businesses out of existence, we should provide tax relief so they can hire more employees and create jobs. Instead of throwing money at programs that aren't working, we should find responsible ways to cut spending.

Small businesses and innovative Americans hold the key to jump-starting our economy. It's time for Washington to let them do their job.

MEDICAL RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)